A SHORT

ESSAY

Towards the

1168. a. 2

HISTORY and CURE

OF

FEVERS,

Particularly of this New

AUTUMNAL-FEVER.

Humbly propoſed to the Conſideration of the Royal Society, and the Colledge of Phyſicians, in Order to the Improvement of Phyſick, and thereby th benefit of our Countrey-Men.

By W. *Simpſon* Doctor in Phyſick.

LONDON,

Printed for *Dorman Newman* at the Kin[g]

A ſhort ESSAY *towards the Hiſtory and Cure of Fevers, eſpecially of this new Autumnal Fever*, &c.

PReliminary Diſcourſes of the Nature of Fevers in general, I muſt for brevity's ſake ſtudiouſly omit, and refer the Reader to ſuch Authors as have made it their buſineſs to treat hereof, and particularly to the induſtrious and worthy Dr. *Sidenhams* Hiſtory of Fevers: It's my preſent task barely, firſt to relate the Hiſtory, giving a ſhort account of the moſt uſual ſymptoms that do accompany this new Fever; next, to propoſe the true Method of cure confirm'd by matter of Fact, the moſt evincing Teſtimony in the world. [Whence may probably elſewhere, as from a better Baſis, be raiſed an *Hypotheſis*, different from what has gone before].

As to the *rationale*, which order or method of proceeding, although by ſome it may poſſibly be lookt upon as empirical to propoſe the cure before erection of the *Hypotheſis*; yet I muſt neceſſarily crave leave to tell ſuch, that it has been the only way towards the curing of all diſeaſes, (ſince diſeaſes began to have a Being, or rather ſince the juices of our bodies began to be depravd and altered into thoſe ſpecifical differences towards mortality, we call diſeaſes) that ever has been known in the world, and that truly, becauſe of our ignorance in the nature of things, *a priori*, limiting now our Theories or *Hypotheſis*, (which are but a ſeries of notions fil'd together, or methodically rang'd in order to the explicating the nature of things from their ſuppoſed cauſes) to the current of viſible *phænomena*, attended with moſt obvious circumſtances. And in deed, at this door (*viz.* tryal of things) has been admitted all the known cures of diſeaſes, whatever the *Hypotheſis* hath been. And for my part, if I might freely ſpeak, I do really think (and that not without good grounds) that diſeaſes would be better cured, (the great work of Phyſitians) if all *hypotheſes* were ſwept off the ſtage, qeing greater *remora* to more noble diſbuiſitions, and ſet-faſts to more generous

tryals, than we are truly aware of, which duely weighed, let the Reader excuſe me, if I take another track then what is vulgar, eſpecially if thereby I come more directly to the propoſed end.

First, Then as to the Hiſtory of this new Fever, it appears under different diſguiſes; the moſt uſual ſymptoms that are the true emergent effects, and natural reſults thereof, are pains in the head and back, coldneſs, chilneſs, and in ſome down-right ſhaking; upon which follows intenſe burning-heat, thirſt, (in ſome more than in others) violent and profuſe ſweatings, faintings, and great debilitudes, with a ſtupor in the head, and general indiſpoſedneſs, which is followed in many) by a *delirium*, attended with ſlumbrings. It moſt-what emulates a *Tertian* by its paroxyſm, eſpecially for three or four, or more of the firſt aſſaults; then afterwards in ſome appears under the guiſe of a *quotidian*; the pulſe is high with great diſorder: ſometimes (but more rarely) it begins with vomitings, and purgings, pains alſo at the ſtomack, &c.

As to the cure (the main thing aim'd at, and of greateſt uſe for the benefit of patients), The obſervations I made was, That although ſweating, or a moderate *Regimen*, be the general and moſt uſual indications for purifying the blood; the one

by carrying off that which frequently caus'd a ſpurious Fermentation therein; the other by reducing the blood to its *eucraſia*, leſſening its high-pac'd and furious Fermentation, rejecting its heterogeneous particles into ſome common ducts, which by Gliſters, Bliſters, *&c.* are carried off, and thereby diſcharged. By both which Methods, the uſual ſymptoms of former Fevers, (but more by much from the latter than former), have frequently been taken off. Yet here I found, what by my own and others obſervations, neither would perform the intended work, and eſpecially that the former, *viz.* Sweating, did not (as often as tryal was made) ſucceed at all; the patients under ſuch ſweating Medicines, generally growing worſe and worſe, found that the profuſe Sweatings, patients ſpontaneouſly fell into, were no other than ſymptomatical, which either carried off much of the ſpirits in a colliquating *fluor*, through the pores, (thoſe minute-fluces of the body,) by precipitation, or other manner of ſeparation, leaving the fermentative matter behind unſequeſtred; or the *exotick acidum*, fix'd upon its own *caput mortuum*, only laid by againſt another paroxyſm, ready to be imbib'd to the procuring the next Fit; and all this to the great debilitude, faintings, and languiſhings of patients. Whence

Whence I ſay, by many remarkable obſervations, I found that ſweating Medicines were no adequate remedy at all for the cure; nay further, were indeed wholly noxious, and where us'd, rendered the cure more difficult: whereupon I made bold to prohibit (in thoſe patients I was concern'd with) all manner of Sweating, as much as poſſible, by denying ſweating Medicines, (or at leaſt if I did adviſe any *Diaphoreticks*, it was ſo ordered, as not at all to cauſe any ſenſible ſweat), and by ordering thoſe heaps of clothes to be taken off, with which they uſually loaded themſelves, (and that ſometimes by the advice of ſome Phyſitian), through the blind hopes of advantage by ſweating, finding hereby no diſadvantage at all to accrue to the patient; although no Medicine ſhould have been preſcrib'd, but only a due temperate *Regimen* to be obſerv'd, which doubtleſs is a much better way, and the patient ſhall come off with leſs loſs of ſpirits and ſtrength, by this than by ſweating Medicines.

Whereupon that I might the better proſecute my deſign, I ſet upon the preparation of a Chymical *Arcanum*, which I hop'd would prove generous in the ſucceſsful cure of Fevers in general, eſpecially and more particularly of this new-minted Fever, reſulting from the late viciſſitude of wea-

ther, and interchange of seasons, thereby disposing the blood (in which this disease chiefly lay) to those new sorts of Fermentation which give being to this Fever. I wrought day and night till I had brought it on so far, as that upon tryal I found it a very noble and generous Medicine, hiting exactly upon this Fever, as peculiarly adapted thereto, answering my expectation, yea far transcending it, even to astonishment.

The first tryal I had of this noble *Arcanum* (thus prepared) was upon two Seamen; the one of which had this Fever in a very intense degree, even to a *delirium*, with profuse and exhausting sweatings, which I hop'd to take off by the more beaten track of Blisters, Glisters, Spirit of Hartshorne, Milk and Water, and for a while thereby he seemed to recover; (having not then prepared this Medicine) but it happened his Fever came afresh upon him again, with the recurring of the wonted symptoms; and when the Apothecary brought me word what a dangerous condition he was in, and delirous, I had then almost finished my propos'd circle of operations upon my Medicine; however, as it was, ventur'd to send him two or three doses, which I ordered the Apothecary to give him in Black-Cherry water, at

such

such and such intervals of time. The Apothecary at the same time gave me also an account of the other patient I had been sent for to that day, to whom after blooding I had prescrib'd a Glister, and Milk and Water for his ordinary drink: the account was that he grew worse and worse, the Fever was growing stronger upon him, and that he also was delirous. Whereupon I ordered him of the same Medicine, thirty drops in three ounces of Black Cherry-water, to be taken at convenient distances of time in the night. Word was brought me next morning, that the Fever in both was so allayed, as they thought it was quite gone; both slept very well, their thirst wonderfully quenched, and their *delirium* quite taken off. This was surprizing news, but desiring to be further satisfied of the truth thereof, I went my self to see them both, and found indeed the relation I had to be true; one of them had slept very well that night, after taking once or twice of his Medicine, and in the morning call'd for some food, and was when I went fallen a sleep after his repast, and they told me was so well, as had thoughts of going abroad that day; notwithstanding that he had had his Fever upon him for near a week, attended with violent heat and sweatings, *&c.* The other I found was got up, and pretty

chee-

cheerful, and I think had taken some food too: and from that time the Fever never return'd, and they without any more ado recovered very well: only this is remarkable, that the former of them, who had been blooded, vomited, and purg'd, and (if I mistake not) some sweating hot Medicines given before I was sent for, and had been a week under such a *Regimen*, who notwithstanding all this grew worse and worse. I say that which is much to be noted in this patient, (and wherein he differed from the other) was, that I observed that he recovered not so fast by far as the other; the reasons whereof (*viz.* the great exhaustion of spirits, and *debilitude* of strength, what by the Fever, and the medicinal Method he was treated with) are obvious to every eye.

Another tryal I had was upon a Tradesmans daughter, of about 10 or 11 years of age, who having labour'd under this Fever for about ten days; they mean while had the advice of a learned Physitian twice, (whose name to prevent reflection I willingly conceal) who had put her upon Sweating, and Glisters: notwithstanding all which attempts (set on by the Galenical Method) her Fever grew higher and higher at every paroxysm; the symptoms more severe, and she at length delirous: I was sent for, would

have

have consulted with the Physitian first advis'd with; but being at a distance, the Parents were resolv'd solely to adhere to my advice: Whereupon I presently took off the heap of clothes, they had by advice in order to further Sweating laid upon her, (they suspecting malignity in the case) and it was feared (she being so extreamly weakened, what with the Fever and pressures to sweat) that the next fit would have carried her away: I ordered the Apothecary to give her three doses in Black Cherry-water, at about three hours interval from each other; being the very day before her expected Fit (which the night following) was to come: she being at ease from the weight of clothes, after the first or second dose fell asleep very sweetly, and in lieu of her expected Fit, she slept very well, and scarce drank any thing all night; and the next morning when I went, found the scene quite altered for the better; the Fever and its attendants had made their *exit*, she cheerful, very sensible, her *stupor* being gone, which before she had had (both during the paroxysm and interval) and call'd for food that day, which she eat without being sick at all, but fell to sleep after. I went several days to see her, she continued recovering, but slowly, because of the great languishment she had been brought to before.

The

The next I gave it to was a man who had languiſhed for about 10 days under this Fever, had violent ſweating, ſpontaneous, beſides what was artificially contracted by *Venice-Treacle*, or ſome ſuch heating Medicines: I askt him if he was mindful to be cured (for I was occaſionally in his houſe) if ſo I would cure him for nothing, (being ſtill deſirous of making further tryals of my *Arcanum*); yes willingly he anſwered, and thank me too, and ſhould look upon it as a providence towards him: with that I ordered him ſome of the aforeſaid Medicine, three or four doſes in *Thames-water* (he having no diſtilled Water by him), as alſo as much the day after in ſpring-water, being the day before his Fit was to come, took them, and had no Fit then nor after; for I call'd once or twice on purpoſe to enquire, was gone abroad, and pretty well as his wife told me. This is what is done in the main, only I order at the heel of the Fever a purge to carry off the precipitated matter, or other rejected feculencies, to prevent the foundation for future diſeaſes which might thence ariſe.

As to the operation of this *Arcanum*, which ſo ſtrangely quieteth the ſeditious tumult of the blood and ſpirits, allayeth the feveriſh heat, and thirſt, and as a great anodyne in this Fever, compoſeth to ſleep

and

and quiet reſt, and yet hath not one grain of *opium* in it; add to which it taketh off *deliriums*, which no *opium* doth, although prepared after the beſt manner that I know: as to which operation, I ſay have not yet in all my tryals met with any thing comparable thereto, and yet is but in its minority, in the road to further improvement.

For it neither operates by vomit, purging, or ſweat, has no ſenſible operation at all, ſave that the ſymptoms go off, and the Fever diſappears.

As to the ingredients of it, I ſhall ſpeak ſomething, darkly enough (as others in things of the like nature uſually do), it's in ſhort, therefore prepar'd with a Mineral, by an Animal, and vegetable *menſtruum* brought on by a circuit of operations to its expected height: as to which I confeſs this is but *in limine*, to what is intended, and to which it's capable of being brought. Which when compleated by what I have already ſeen of its operation in its ſtate of Infancy, may *ex ungue leonem*, eaſily conjecture; it will when perfected, and come to its full ripenſs and perfection, be one of the beſt Medicines in the world for the cure of moſt, if not all ſorts of acute diſeaſes, *viz.* Fevers, Agues, Pleuriſies, ſmall Pox, Gripes, and the diſeaſe *morbus Cholera*, and dyſenteries thence emerging, the graduating of which

men-

menſtruum, that it may the better work upon the aforeſaid mineral, and both be brought to their *acmè*, is the work I am now intent upon, which *Arcanum* hides in it ſelf a noble, but inviſible *ſulphur* of great energy in compoſing and quieting the tumults of the ſtomack, and inteſtines, apparent in the acuteſt of Fevers, call'd *morbus Cholera*, as alſo in Dyſenteries, both which it cures almoſt infallibly. As to the now graſſant Epidemick Fever (attended with its peculiar, but various ſymptoms) a worthy and ingenious Friend of mine (to whom I am in theſe affairs highly obliged) has frequently try'd this *Arcanum*, as alſo in *Pleuriſies*, *Morbus Cholera*, and Dyſenteries, even with admirable ſucceſs.

This Medicine ſucceeds the beſt, if taken according to a right Method, at the beginning, or firſt days of a Fever, and that eſpecially in Fevers of Children, where it ſeldom fails: But we do not propoſe it as Univerſal in the Cure of all Fevers; for if the Fever have continued long, and that Sweating, or other debilitating Medicines have been given, by which the ſpirits are exhauſted, the Ferments deprav'd, and the whole Maſs of blood and other juices brought into an *Ataxy*, or if the compage of the blood be too much relaxed by an im-

immoderate cooling *Regimen*, then it has not the expected ſucceſs; therefore in ſuch and the like caſes other Methods muſt be us'd, or this muſt be higher graduated by further preparation. What thoſe Medicines and right Methods are which may conduce to the Cure of Fevers in general, we ſhall elſewhere in our *Pyretologia*, or Eſſay to an *Hypotheſis* of Fevers, take the liberty to declare.

And as to *Tertian* and *Quartan Agues*, thoſe obſtinate, and to common Method rebellious diſeaſes, I know two Doctors in Phyſick (both worthy, learned, and judicious men) who beſides my ſelf have a certain and almoſt infallible Method of Curing them, without either Vomit, Purge, Sweat, or other ſenſibly operating Medicines; ſo certainly, as ſcarce one in ten ſhall either fail or relapſe; ſo quickly, as they ſhall hear no more of their Ague after the firſt or ſecond days preſcription; and ſo eaſily, as it's done without any ſenſibly working Medicine; whereby the three grand indications are anſwered of Curing, *Tutò, citò & jucundè*, the great work of Phyſicians.

To ſay nothing here how we know a certain, quick, and pleaſant Method for curing *Convulſions* without danger of relaps, (thoſe to common Method refractory

diſ-

diſeaſes) as for the former. To confirm the truth of which we might, if at leaſure, give conſiderable and remarkable inſtances by matter of Fact. Nor here further, then to name our effectual and ſpeedy way of curing venereal Diſeaſes: as to all which we are reſolv'd (for brevity's ſake) not further here to inſiſt thereon, but ſhall refer the diſcourſe thereof to another opportunity.

Theſe things I the rather name, and but tranſiently hint, partly thereby to demonſtrate by matter of Fact, that ſomewhat beſides, and beyond the wonted Methods, are truly worthy Phyſicians beſt Eſſays; and to put them upon new attempts, and freſh diſcoveries, in finding out Remedies ſuitable and appropriate to every emergent Malady.

And now, if any moroſe humour'd man (as perhaps ſuch their may be found) ſhall enviouſly call me a Quack, I ſhall anſwer by querying, whether he that can Cure diſeaſes, or he that cannot, is the Quack? Let them call me ſo, I value it not; if I can but ſucceſsfully cure diſeaſes, the great aim (at leaſt ſhould be) of all Phyſicians: They may upon the like grounds give the ſame name to *Riverius*, and to thoſe other worthy, judicious, and learned men aftermentioned.

And

And lastly, As to such who shall *Momus*-like, enviously carp at any thing, not to be had in their own Vulgar beaten Track, who hereby give a large and clear evidence of the ignobleness of their souls, in that they neither are willing themselves to search into the mysteries and wonders of nature, not daring to put their laborious hand to draw the curtain nature has vail'd her choicest secrets with: nor (which is yet worse) are they pleas'd with such as really and successfully do, envying those whose labours nature has crown'd by her bountiful donation and liberal discovery of her self; to such (besides the deformed Idea's which may easily rebound from the reflecting glass in their own breast, enough to affright an ingenious and ingenuous soul); I would answer in short, by biding such ignorant and envious spirits, be silent, and cast their eye backward to former Ages, and consider, that besides the ancient *Hermetick Arcanum*, kept a-foot in all ages of the world, the fam'd *Hippocrates* had his πῦρ θεῖον, (ex inquish'd as much as could be by his successor *Galen*).

To say nothing of the two Fillars of new discoveries in Physick, *viz.* the fam'd *Paracelsus* and *Helmont*; nor yet more than to mention the *Hybernian Butler*, with his *Elixir salis*, or *lapis ignis*, by which wonderful

derful cures were perform'd. Had not *Poterius* his *Arcana*, by which he effected wonderful cures, as also *Rulandus*, *Angelus Sala*, &c?

And to look to contemporaries to this very century, had not *Riverius* his *Febrifugum* (a Remedy in effect parallel to ours)? had not the learned *Langius* his secrets, as his *Miscellanea curiosa Medica* testifie? Had not Dr. *Davison*, Physician extraordinary to the *French* King, famous for his Chymical writings, his *Arcanum* for curing the *Lues venerea*, for which the Physicians in *Paris* gave him 20000 Pistols for discovering it to them, and to desist practice (only to the Kings Person)? Was not Dr. *Anthony* famous for his *aurum potabile*? Had not the Learned and Industrious *Silvius*, University-professor of *Leiden*, his *Sal volatile oleosum*, prepar'd by his own hand? yea, had not our famous Countryman Dr. *Willis*, his secret preparation of Steel, and other *Arcana's* he kept to himself?

And to look now abroad into forreign parts, may not the learned and worthy *Borrichius* be reckoned amongst this Classis? as also *Langelotus*, *Balduinus*, *Tackius*, *Morhofus*, *Kerkringius*, *Tachenius*, *Becherus*, &c. whose Writings in spight of Envy have made them famous.

But

But to return home, and there to wrap up; have we not of the very Colledge of Physicians famous men, learned and judicious? *viz.* Dr. *Rugeley*, Dr. *Dickenson*, Dr. *Goodal*, who have their *Arcana*, which they use in their practice? and for the present, to compleat the number, till another more worthy be added, why may not I as the least of all the aforesaid cast in my mite to this of Natures Treasury? If thereby I excite other ingenious men to the laudable attainments in searching the hidden secrets of Nature for the improvement of the noble Art of Healing; that the desire of filthy lucre being laid aside, we may be more studious really to cure (to answer the great intention of our Employ) and may thereby (if God will) live to see a new Scene of Physick appear, even more certain; and therefore more amiable than ever it hath been since the days of *Solomon* (who knew the vertue of all things in the three-fold Kingdom of Nature) I shall have what I aim at; of which more elsewhere.

Our *Hypothesis* for the solution of the usual *Phœnomena* or symptoms of Fevers, as also for the rendring a more intelligible account of the successful operation of *Arcana* in the cure thereof, we designedly omit

mit here, reserving it to another opportunity, where we shall give a more ample relation of the further successful tryals of our Medicines by matter of fact.

From my House in *Chappel-street*, near *New Chappel*, *Westminster*, *London*.

MVSEVM BRITANNICVM

FINIS.